



Daily Reflections

October 14, 2018

Scripture

Mark 10: 17-30

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother." He replied and said to him, "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"

The disciples were amazed at his words.
So Jesus again said to them in reply,
"Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!
It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle
than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."
They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves,
"Then who can be saved?"
Jesus looked at them and said,
"For human beings it is impossible, but not for God.
All things are possible for God."
Peter began to say to him,
"We have given up everything and followed you."
Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you,
there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters
or mother or father or children or lands
for my sake and for the sake of the gospel
who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age:
houses and brothers and sisters
and mothers and children and lands,
with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus' teaching is profoundly important not only for the people of His day but for all people of our own day as well. We live in a very affluent society to be sure. The amount of stuff possessed by people of the upper, middle and lower classes is astounding but also troubling. There is a strong correlation between how much stuff one possesses and their level of faith. Please note: Our Lord never condemns those who are rich. It is the attitude of one's heart towards one's possessions that is of concern to Him. As He says in Luke 16: 13..."You cannot love both God and mammon (money, stuff). What is the proper attitude towards possessions?

1. Remember that all we have is a gift from God on loan.
2. We are to use what we have for the Kingdom of God. How are we bringing glory to God through the use of what we have?
3. Have we taken into account and served the needs of the destitute?

We will not be judged on what we have. We will be judged on our attitude towards it.

Food for your Journey

Jesus stopped them, "Guys, it's tough for the rich to enter the kingdom of God. Their priorities are all mixed up -- their hearts are not right. That poor kid thinks he's kept all the commandments for crying out loud. He has no clue he doesn't even keep the first one -- 'You shall have no other gods before me.' His 'stuff' comes before God. I tell you the truth, it's easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom."

--Ted Olson, "The man with no name," Holistic Faith: Following Jesus, August 23, 2013,

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, I thank You and praise You for the many blessings You have richly bestowed on me and my family. I thank You most especially for the precious gifts of faith, time, talent, family, love, food and shelter. Lord, may I never take these gifts for granted, but may I always strive to use them for Your glory. Amen